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ABSTRACT

In the Indian culture, Mahabharata is considered to be one of the greatest battles fought in the history. There are many lessons that can be learnt from this epic. There are many events that led to this war. For example, the completion exile of Pandavas and denial by Duryodhan to keep the promise of sharing the kingdom with the pandavas, etc. Lord Krishna who is considered to be one of the most powerful divine warrior ever in the history of this universe played a significant role in this conflict. Shrimad Bhagwad Gita which is considered to be "song of the Lord" was narrated to prince Arjun by Shri Krishna on the battkefield. The purpose of this narration was providing an insight of universal truth to Arjun.

KEYWORDS :Indian culture, Bhagwad Gita , eternal spiritual soul.

INTRODUCTION

In this article, the summary or the conclusions of the chapters of Bhagwad Gita have been observed considering the present day observations and current scenario of the lifestyle of mortals.

Shrimad Bhagwad Gita is a book containing of 700 verses. It is called to be the direct narration of truth from the divine mouth of Lord Krishna. There is a belief in Indian Culture that this book is a masterpiece of knowledge which has answers to all the questions in the universe. It consists of 18 chapters. It has been claimed by scholars that the origin of Shrimad Bhagwad Gita dates from the fifth century to the second century BCE as the probable range.

Starting with modern approach, let us consider each chapter:-

Chapter 1:-

Observing the Armies on the Battlefield of Kurukshetra

On the battlefield, Arjun was observing the warriors who stood firmly against him. He saw his relatives, friends, etc and got depressed.



Observing according to the current scenario, when we know the truth but still we cannot admit or stand up to it just because of thinking of the after effects that would occur due to our action, we face the same situation faced by Prince Arjun at that time. There are times when we know that somethings happening around us are inappropriate but still, we cannot do anything about them. Majority of those times, the reason behind our static behavior is the fear of comments and criticism.

Chapter 2:-

Contents of the Gita Summarized

Arjun submits to Lord Krishna as His disciple, and Krishna begins His teachings to Arjun by explaining the fundamental distinction between the temporary material body and the eternal spiritual soul.

Modern Point of view:-

Many times it happens that

irrespective if tremendous potentials residing in ourselves, we are unable to deliver performance in accordance with the demand . These are the times when we feel depressed. A simple example can be given as mentioned below:-

“ A student who is very good in a particular subject is unable to score well just because of fear of failing in the examination or the fear of forgetting the studies that he/she has done ”

In such a case despite of having the materials, the person does not perform well. At such times if another person who is a good listener, listens to the victim's experience and tries to guide him, he may be able to fetch that person from the shades of discontentment to lights of confidence.

Chapter 3:- Karma-yoga

Everyone must engage in some sort of activity in this material world. But actions can either bind one to this world or liberate one from it. By acting for the pleasure of the Supreme, without selfish motives, one can be liberated from the law of karma (action and reaction) and attain transcendental knowledge of the self and the Supreme.

Consider an idle person who does nothing except just adding days to life. Such a person can never enjoy the beauties of life because he has never made any efforts to accomplish any challenging task. But if we stay organized and always remain engaged in some or another task which is beneficial for our growth, we can refrain ourselves from getting bored and depressed.

Chapter 4:- Transcendental Knowledge

Transcendental knowledge-the spiritual knowledge of the soul, of God, and their relationship-is both purifying and liberating. Such knowledge is the fruit of selfless devotional action (karma-yoga). Almost each and every person on this earth is suffering from the problem called “mine”. The three main problems faced by every human being on earth:-

“ What is of my acquisition ?”

“ How will I be benefitted from this action ?”

“ How do I get more than others ”

These three questions which lead to selfishness are the roots of all the problems faced by mankind. When a person does some work without thinking of the profits for example, when parents teach babies, they do not see of the profit, at that time the undertaken task is appreciated even by the divine.

Chapter 5:- Karma-yoga-Action in Krishna Consciousness

Outwardly performing all actions but inwardly renouncing their fruits, the wise man, purified by the fire of transcendental knowledge, attains peace, detachment, forbearance, spiritual vision and bliss.

This conclusion is an integration of the previous conclusion. The expressions that are demonstrated outwards are not the only expressions that we possess. Despite of our conscious mind being in our control it is possible that our subconscious mind is still in the state of discontentment. But if we are able to control that portion of our mind too, we can attain the state of inner peace and satisfaction.

Chapter 6:- Dhyana-yoga

Astanga-Yoga, a mechanical meditative practice, controls the mind and the senses and focuses concentration on Paramatma (the Supersoul, the form of the Lord situated in the heart).

This chapter teaches the importance of mental peace and stability. Many sages have stated that our mind is

like water. You fill it into a pot of any shape and size and it will also reform its shape. Similarly, our mind is extremely active. It cannot remain in a uniform state until it is trained to do so. The best way to practice this exercise is to meditate. Because when our mind is at peace, all the works seem simple and easy.

Example:-

Consider two people Mr. A, a frustrated one and Mr. B a peaceful one. Think for yourself, which one will be able to work efficiently.

Chapter 7:-

Knowledge of the Absolute

Lord Krishna is the Supreme Truth, the supreme cause and sustaining force of everything, both material and spiritual. Advanced souls surrender unto Him in devotion, whereas impious souls divert their minds to other objects of worship.

According to a famous martial artist Mr. Bruce Lee,

“All kinds of knowledge ultimately leads to self-knowledge”

Similarly, in the pursuit of creating energy we are not doing or discovering anything new except the energies that we already know. According to a research done in Nasa, the sound emitted from sun sounds “AUM”, now that is a thing of astonishment. But that theory had already been mentioned in the scriptures. Not only that, the scriptures say that all forms of energy origin from the sound “AUM”. Now where did the research lead us to? A New dimension or an already existing one.

Chapter 8:-

Attaining the Supreme

By remembering Lord Krishna in devotion throughout one's life, and especially at the time of death, one can attain to His supreme abode, beyond the material world.

There is a saying in the Indian subcontinent that:-

“Neither did you come to this world having obtained something, nor are you going to leave it acquiring something”

The people who work for materialistic pleasures are the ones who show maximum probabilities of mental breakdown. For example the person who owns a company works more than his employee. The reason behind that is the undying dissatisfaction to achieve more and more. More the money more the perks is the mantra for people who crave for luxury. But if we simply realize this inevitable truth, we can focus on heartily pleasures rather than worldly pleasures.

Chapter 9:-

The Most Confidential Knowledge

Lord Krishna is the Supreme object of worship. The soul is eternally related to Him through transcendental devotional service.

There is a saying which tries to explain that “The work done for welfare of others is the work done for God”.

Example:-

When we go to a hotel, we find a person serving us food who, we call a waiter. There are many people who provide tip to him. Now think for a moment, is that tip enough to provide him something productive. Let us consider another example, why does it happen that beggars are not allowed in the temple? If god is for everyone, then for which reason, these activities take place.

Chapter 10:-

The Opulence of the Absolute

All wondrous phenomena showing power, beauty, grandeur or sublimity, either in the material world or in the spiritual, are but manifestations of Krishna's divine opulence.

A work done by a living creature is a work done by the divine. All the works we do directly or indirectly end at God. Our feelings indicate the level of happiness God feels when we do a work. For example if a person copies in examination, he might get good result, but on the inner side, the person would be knowing that the marks that are being displayed don't belong to him.

Chapter 11:-

The Universal Form

Lord Krishna grants Arjun divine vision and reveals His spectacular unlimited form as the cosmic universe. Thus He conclusively establishes His divinity.

This conclusion demonstrates two qualities of Lord Krishna. One: whenever time comes, always be ready to accept and live originality. Second: Truth is crystal clear, we just need appropriate vision to see and understand it.

Chapter 12:-

Devotional Service

Bhakti-yoga, pure devotional service to Lord Krishna, is the highest and most expedient means for attaining pure love for Krishna, which is the highest end of spiritual existence.

This passage explains the importance of remembering god while doing any and everything. A person is told to be alive when he is breathing, similarly a person who does not expect anything from anyone, and just believes in spreading warmth, joy and happiness ultimately finds happiness and salvation.

Chapter 13:-

Nature, the Enjoyer, and Consciousness

One who understands the difference between the body, the soul and the Supersoul beyond them both attains liberation from this material world.

Acceptance is the key element to peace of mind. If we accept things, we can easily adjust. A person who has the ability to accept to change are the person who experience the least friction of calamities of life. A person who knows that nothing happens without a reason is far more normal than a person who is unable to visualize and cope up with the problems.

Chapter 14:-

The Three Modes of Material Nature

All embodied souls are under the control of the three modes, or qualities, of material nature: goodness, passion, and ignorance.

How badly someone wants to do something and how nicely someone wants to contribute to something are two essential questions that can change the definition of everything. When we travel, if there's a bump ahead, we slow down and pass the bump easily. That one simple action is capable of teaching us the lessons of lifetime. When one learns to ignore the unessential parts of life, he learns to focus on his goal with passion and goodness.

Chapter 15:-

The Yoga of the Supreme Person

The ultimate purpose of Vedic knowledge is to detach one self from the entanglement of the material world and to understand Lord Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

What is detachment? Detachment simply is the state when you are with yourself and no one else. This can be achieved through meditation. When we meditate, we detach from the worldly matters and start concentrating on ourselves. This is the time when we gain peace.

Chapter 16:-

The Divine and Demonic Natures:-

Those who possess demonic qualities and who live whimsically, without following the regulations of scripture, attain lower births and further material bondage. But those who possess divine qualities and regulated lives, abiding by scriptural authority, gradually attain spiritual perfection.

We are known by our work. If we work hard for something, we surely get it. Similarly, the works that we do define the life we live. The work which is done without any evil thoughts, the work which does not result in despair is a work which surely gives success.

Chapter 17:-

The Divisions of Faith

There are three types of faith, corresponding to and evolving from the three modes of material nature. Acts performed by those whose faith is in passion and ignorance yield only impermanent, material results, whereas acts performed in goodness, in accord with scriptural injunctions, purify the heart and lead to pure faith in Lord Krishna and devotion to Him.

Why is it that small babies always attract people? The reason behind this is the simplest feeling of selflessness and devotion. Whenever you play with a child, the child makes you laugh. In the same way, works done by selfless motives or indeed without expecting anything is the work that gives you satisfaction.

Chapter 18:-

Conclusion: The Perfection of Renunciation

He explains Brahman realization and the ultimate conclusion of the Gita: the highest path of religion is absolute, unconditional loving surrender unto Lord Krishna, which frees one from all sins, brings one to complete enlightenment, and enables one to return to Krishna's eternal spiritual abode.

The last chapter can be explained by giving a simple example as follows:-

The work of parents for the child is the work of God, The work of a student for his carrier is the work of God.

A work done unconditionally is the work of God.

CONCLUSION:-

Shrimad Bhagwad Gita effectively gives us the roots of attaining peace and prosperity. It teaches us the way of leaving life without any evil motives, at the same time it also teaches us the path of enlightenment.

Centuries old this book still is the solution of the problems we face.

The summary of this article can be given as mentioned below:-

- All kinds of knowledge lead to self realization
- Selflessness is the key element for success of any goal
- Faith and devotion lead to enlightenment
- The works done for welfare and development are the works of God

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